

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF “SERVICE THROUGH EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, AND COURTESY”

Gerstacker Trooper of the Year



Sgt Randy Hansen

Sgt. Randy Hansen of the Reed City Post was voted 2001 Trooper of the Year for symbolizing outstanding professional ethics, dedication to duty, and a concern for giving back to the community. Sergeant Hansen was recognized for being highly motivated and demonstrating great enthusiasm on the job and in his community. A desk sergeant at the Reed City Post for the past 22 years, Sergeant Hansen is known for staying long after his shift has ended, coming in to work on his days off, and serving as a mentor to the younger troopers at the post. He additionally received the award for demonstrating his dedication to his community by serving on the Reed City school board, city council, and for helping the senior citizens and veterans of the Reed City area. Sergeant Hansen began with the department on August 29, 1971, and graduated as a member of the 79th Michigan State Police Recruit School. He 1980. He will retire in February after 30 years of service. was first assigned to the

Romeo Post and has served at the Reed City Post since

Motor Carrier Officer of the Year

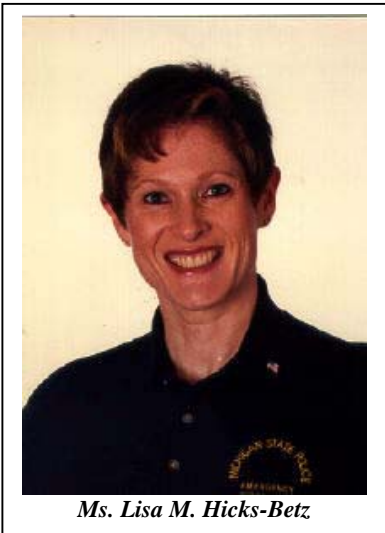
Officer Barry L. Archer was honored as the 2001 Motor Carrier Officer of the Year. This recognition is awarded to the Motor Carrier officer who typifies outstanding service, accomplishment, and achievement and best upholds, both on and off the job, the department's tradition of service through excellence, integrity, and courtesy. Officer Archer joined the Department of State Police Motor Carrier Division in June of 1987. Upon graduation from recruit school, he was assigned to the Adrian Post, In achieving the award, Officer Archer was recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty last summer when he came upon a burning gasoline tanker. He immediately, without concern for his own safety, grabbed two fire extinguishers and extinguished the fire before it could spread, averting a disastrous situation. In yet another incident, Officer Archer was credited with responding to a vehicle fire, pulling the driver from the vehicle just moments before it exploded. The impact of the resulting explosion was so powerful it shattered Officer Archer's glasses and caused burns to his hands.



Officer Barry L. Archer



Floyd R. Bell, Jr. Civilian of the Year



Ms. Lisa M. Hicks-Betz

Ms. Lisa M. Hicks-Betz is the newest recipient of the department’s Floyd R. Bell, Jr., Civilian of the Year Award. Ms. Hicks-Betz is a dispatcher for the Special Operations Division, East Lansing Headquarters and has served the department since 1995. Betz was singled out for the award for being considered a loyal, dependable, and motivated member who takes every opportunity to learn and take on new responsibilities. When off duty, Betz’s community involvement includes fundraising for charitable organizations such as Special Olympics, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the American Diabetes Association. She also is involved with the Clinton County 4-H Program and teaching criminal justice classes at Lansing Community College. Prior to joining the State Police, she worked for the Clinton County Sheriff’s Department and the Clinton County 911

Central Dispatch Center. Lisa is currently working on her Bachelor of Science degree in community development from Central Michigan University.

Donald S. Leonard Award



Sgt. Lance R. Cook

Sgt. Lance R. Cook, of the Traffic Services Section, Special Operations Division, was presented the “Donald S. Leonard Award” by the State Bar of Michigan, Criminal Law Section. This award recognizes a Michigan State Police officer who has excelled in the pursuit of continuing education. Sergeant Cook recently graduated with a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University. Prior to that, he received his Graduate Certificate in Public Administration from Central Michigan. While attending both programs, Sergeant Cook maintained a 4.0 grade point average. Sergeant Cook also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Saginaw Valley State University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. He is also a graduate of the Oakland Police Academy. Sergeant Cook has completed more than 5,000 hours of in-service

courses, including the Michigan State Police Leadership Development Program. Sergeant Cook enlisted with the department on June 6, 1993, and graduated as a member of the 108th Recruit School. His first assignment was to the Caro Post. He has also served on the Gladwin Team, Seventh District Headquarters (Traverse City) and Third District Headquarters (Saginaw). He was appointed to the Special Operations Division September 2001 and is responsible for the Vehicle Code Unit. Prior to joining the department, Sergeant Cook served as a deputy officer with the Isabella County Sheriff’s Department and as a patrol officer with the Village of New Haven Police Department.



Bravery Award



Tpr. Craig R. Wheeler

Tpr. Craig R. Wheeler of the White Pigeon Post is the recipient of the Michigan State Police Bravery Award. He is credited with risking his life and placing himself in serious danger to save the life of a citizen. Trooper Wheeler and his partner were called to the scene of a house fire. Upon their arrival, they observed fire pouring out of the front windows of the house. Several family members were at the scene and advised that they had attempted to enter the house to rescue the victim but were unsuccessful. Trooper Wheeler entered the house and began crawling through the residence, systematically searching the rooms for the victim. The smoke was so thick within the residence that Trooper Wheeler had to breathe through his shirtsleeve to keep from succumbing to the fumes and smoke. Trooper Wheeler eventually had to retreat from the burning residence to avoid being overcome by the conditions. His partner gained entry into the house by breaking a sliding glass door, located the victim, and pulled her from the burning house to safety. Trooper Wheeler's quick actions aided in saving the victim's life. Trooper Wheeler enlisted with the department in 1998 and graduated as a member of the 117th Recruit School. He is assigned to the White Pigeon post.

